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**PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2009  
MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Commissioner Sperring called the Planning Committee meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Other members in attendance were Commissioners Azumbrado, Dodd, Giacopini, Haggerty, Halsted, Lempert, Rubin, and Worth. Commissioner Bates and Tissier also attended.

**CONSENT CALENDAR: Minutes of December 12, 2008**

Commissioner Halsted moved approval, Commissioner Worth seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**TRANSPORTATION 2035: Overview of the Draft Conformity Analysis for Transportation 2035 Plan and 2009 Transportation Improvement Program/Amendment #09-06**

Ms. Ashley Nguyen reported that MTC has prepared a transportation conformity analysis for the T2035 Plan and 2009 TIP/Amendment #09-06 in accordance with EPA conformity regulations and Bay Area Air Quality Conformity Protocol codified in MTC Resolution 3757. MTC is required to demonstrate that our plans conform to the federal air quality plans known as the State Implementation Plan (SIP). She explained that conformity to the SIP means that our transportation activities will not cause new violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the national air quality standards for ozone precursors and carbon monoxide.

Ms. Nguyen said that based on our draft analysis, staff will likely recommend the following positive conformity findings: (a) conformity analysis was prepared in accordance with EPA conformity regulations and Bay Area Air Quality Conformity Protocol; (b) both the motor vehicle emissions in the T2035 Plan and 2009 TIP are lower than the emissions budget in the SIPs for the national 8-hour ozone standard and national carbon monoxide standard; (c) both the T2035 Plan and 2009 TIP as amended provide for the timely implementation of TCMs.

In closing, Ms. Nguyen stated that the Draft Conformity Analysis is subject to a 30-day public review period, which starts on January 9, 2009 and closes on February 9, 2009. Staff will prepare responses to written comments received, and consult with the Air Quality Conformity Task Force on the proposed final conformity analysis. Staff will return to this Committee and the Commission for approval of the proposed final report at the March meetings.

Committee Chair Spring commented on the list of projects, noting that it may be difficult to locate a project on the list, and asked how staff knows if something is missing. Ms. Nguyen stated that the project listing is provided as part of the report document. However, projects identified in both the Transportation 2035 Plan and 2009 Transportation Improvement Program are accessible through our project database. The TIP database (called FMS) is currently available online, and staff will create an online version for the Plan shortly.

Commissioner Worth asked if there are follow-up analyses that looks at air quality impacts once a project (such as the Benicia-Martinez Bridge) is completed to see the before and after air quality effects. Ms. Nguyen replied that the Air District has monitoring stations around the region, and they do periodically look at specific areas and monitor the air quality, particularly in the Benicia-Martinez area where there are oil refineries.

Committee Chair Spring asked for a quick summary of next steps, and Ms. Nguyen reiterated the 30-day public review period for the Draft Analysis that closes on February 9, and noted that staff will prepare responses to comments and present the final analysis to the Committee in March.

### **TOD CHOICES STUDY**

Ms. Valerie Knepper presented a PowerPoint presentation on an MTC study that analyzes why people choose to reside in a transit oriented development.

She stated that the study team started by holding several focus groups of individuals who had recently moved or were interested in moving soon to help understand various issues of interest. Staff then conducted a survey of over 900 individuals, asking about issues when choosing where to live within the Bay Area. The results of the survey were statistically analyzed to define six preference factors that are important to people when deciding where to live. These factors were combined with socioeconomic information to define eight potential user segments, which Mr. Chris Wornum, Cambridge Systematics, summarized.

Ms. Knepper stated that staff will be conducting a small follow-up questionnaire with a sample of the survey respondents from the TOD Potential user segments. The purpose of the follow-up interviews with the target segments will be to 1) improve understanding of how the TOD Potential user segments might respond to specific public policies intended to improve attractiveness of TODs, and 2) gain qualitative, narrative information on the housing and travel choices of the respondents in the target user segments.

Staff will also hold two small workshops to seek input on potential public policies that support TODs. The workshops will share information among participants regarding the challenges of TOD, share the results of this study, propose TOD performance measures, and culminate in identifying the key public policies and actions to support TODs and the transportation effectiveness of TODs.

Commissioner Tissier asked can TODs accommodate an aging population, since they have different needs? Mr. Wornum stated that there are a couple of market segments that are much older, without kids, or the kids have left home, and they are looking for a new place to downsize. He did caution that although this is a very lucrative way to look at the data, it's also evident that some of the things we assume about older people don't necessarily hold when you look at their attitudes towards where they want to live.

Commissioner Lempert commented on the home size, and location to transit. She noted that TODs can be less expensive especially considering less driving. She suggested that staff consider that as a marketing tool.

Commissioner Azumbrado expressed his concern with the disconnect of school and mass transit, and noted that the TODs look good, but the blend with other service needs is not there.

Commissioner Bates commented on schools, and stated that they must be good to attract families to TODs. He agreed with Commissioner Worth regarding attracting young professionals to TODs and make sure activities include parks, cafés, retail, lighting, etc. He also noted that Transit Village sounds better than TOD.

Committee Chair Spering expressed his concern about targeting on how staff develops TOD around one segment - it should be a community built around transit.

Commissioner Worth stated that there needs to be fundamental input regarding people's housing decisions.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Committee Chair Spering called for public comment. Mr. Bob Planthold stated that the headline newspapers are not covering news that affect the disabled populations. Some of the neglect of the disabled carries over into EIR analysis.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 13, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, CA.